

Dhaka Day by Day



How can we hold meetings with total disregard for the general public? It's a democracy.

In the Name of Democracy

S. Bari

DITCHING autocracy and holding democratic elections turned out to be even better than I thought. After all, only one person can exploit an autocratic system; all of us can exploit democracy.

Slowly, the rest of us cottoned on to this unforeseen advantage. Hey, here is the perfect excuse to set up my tea-stall in your driveway, to raise the price of a haircut, to ignore red lights. Our constitution guarantees many rights. One of them we hold more sacred than any other: the right to demonstrate.

Another right we consider crucial to a respectable democracy, and one which we exercise with enthusiasm, is the right to make noise. If I feel the sudden urge at 2 am to listen

to Bhagyashree exhort, "Qubootar ja ja ja," at 210 decibels, this freedom is guaranteed to me by the constitution. A man selling a cure for warts outside your office window wields a megaphone so he can reach an audience on the sixteenth floor. His justification: it's a democracy. Given a little more money, his democratic sense will propel him through the streets in an auto-rickshaw, broadcasting the merits of his cure.

Driving is another activity much-enriched under a democracy. Driving rights in Dhaka include: the right to park in the middle of the road; the right to drive three times over the speed limit; the right to honk all the way down a one-way deserted street; the right to stop for the traffic light exactly on top of the pedestrian's crossing; the right to make sure no one can cross the road without wishing they had prepared their last will-and-testament; and the most pivotal right to drive on the wrong side of the road. Try and stop me, it's a democracy.

Allow me to deface your walls with my party slogans. It's a democracy. Have some massive rubbish to get rid of? An old bathtub, the rickety bicycle, cow innards? Just leave it on the roadside; having to carry it to the corner of the block is a violation of your rights. The more slogan-plastered walls and old furniture we see on the streets, the surer we can be that democracy is flourishing.

Many of us are not entirely sure what democracy is, but it sure has its fringe benefits. If you are a late-comer to the "In the name of democracy" game, now you know what you've been missing. Otherwise, you may burn this article, if you like: it's a democracy.

'Qamrul Hasan fought against autocracy'

By Staff Correspondent

The speakers a function on the publication ceremony of a book 'Qamrul Hasan' at Bangla Academy on Sunday, said artist Qamrul Hasan was an ardent soldier against autocracy, injustice and exploitation.

They said the artist taught us to live with our culture of pride through his artworks.

Artist Aminul Islam who presided over the function, said Qamrul Hasan worked in the line of pure culture and enriched us with self-respect. Kamal Lohani, Prof Nazrul Islam, Hasem Khan, Dr Nawazes Ahmed, Prof Monjurul Islam, Quayum Chowdhury and Dr Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir also spoke on the occasion.

SSC examinee commits suicide

By Staff Correspondent

An SSC examinee, Fatema, allegedly committed suicide at her East Rampura residence Saturday evening.

Medical sources said, doctors declared Fatema dead after she was brought unconscious to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The sources quoted Fatema's brother-in-law Yousuf who carried her to the DMCH, as saying that Fatema was found hanging at their Ulan Road house. Yousuf did not elaborate.

The body was sent for autopsy.

Plea to donate for treatment of Sadhan Sarker

Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali Sunday appealed to the people to donate for the treatment of the ailing singer Sadhan Sarker, reports BSS.

Sadhan Sarker who hails from Khulna suffering from kidney disease, is now at the PG Hospital. He needs treatment abroad immediately, according to a press release of the Sangsad Secretariat.

Hearing on Presidential polls today

By Staff Correspondent

The hearing on appeal against rejection of Writ for Presidential polls is fixed today (Monday) before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. M Saleem Ullah filed a Writ Petition alleging that the election to the post of President and Vice-President must be held under the constitutional mandate within June 4, 1991 before the expiry of 180 days commencing from December 6, 1990 when both the offices of the President and elected Vice-President fell vacant.

A Division Bench of the High Court Division rejected the Writ Petition summarily on May 7, but as the matter involved a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution, the certificate, as prayed under Article 102(2) (A) of the Constitution was granted.

The Election Commission entered appearance and obtained time to file concise statement by July 1.

3,167 teachers in 9 varsities

Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury, Education Minister and Deputy Leader of the House, Sunday said in the Jatiya Sangsad that a total of 3,167 teachers are employed in nine universities of the country, reports BSS.

In a written reply to Shah Mohammad Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury (JP-Sherpur), Dr Chowdhury said Dhaka University topped the list with 1,176 teachers, followed by Rajshahi University with 519 teachers.

The upcoming university of Khulna has only six teachers while the Shajal Science and Technology University at Sylhet has 19 teachers. The number of teachers in other universities is: Bangladesh Agriculture University, Mymensingh-380, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka -384, Jahangirnagar University-228 and Islami University, Kushtia 29.

New envoy presents credentials to Acting President

Balanced growth of trade to promote ties with USSR

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Sunday expressed the hope that the cooperative relations between Bangladesh and Soviet Union, particularly in the economic field, would continue to grow to the mutual benefit of the two peoples, reports BSS.

The Acting President who received the credentials of the new Soviet Ambassador, Yuri Konstantinovich Alekseev, at a ceremony at Bangabhaban Sunday morning, in his remarks termed the Soviet Union as "one of our important partners in progress". Recalling the Soviet assistance in various sectors including expansion of power generation, he said a balanced growth of the two way trade and com-

merce would contribute to further strengthening of Soviet-Bangladesh bilateral relations.

Justice Shahabuddin said with confidence that the coming visit of Bangladesh Foreign Minister to the Soviet Union from the 9th of next month would give new impetus to the existing friendly bilateral ties.

The Acting President assured the new Soviet Ambassador of all possible cooperation and assistance in the performance of his duties. He hoped that Soviet-Bangladesh relations would reach a new height during his tenure.

Welcoming the Soviet Ambassador Justice Shahabuddin recalled with gratitude the Soviet assistance during

Bangladesh's war of liberation saying that the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two people are historical. He said the Soviet Union stood firmly beside our people during the liberation war of Bangladesh.

Recollects the moral and material support of the USSR following the war for the reconstruction of the ravaged country. He also thanked the Soviet government for their recent assistance to the cyclone affected people of the country's coastal belt.

The Acting President also pointed out that Bangladesh had been following with keen interest and admiration the reforms being carried out in the Soviet Union under the leadership of President Gorbachev. He hoped that these reforms would be successful.

In this context, he referred to the current efforts of Bangladesh for improving the economic and social condition of the people as well as strengthening its democratic institutions.

The new Soviet Ambassador, Yuri Konstantinovich Alekseev, said principles of friendship and mutual cooperation had always characterised Soviet-Bangladesh relations. He said the Soviet people have respect towards the industrious people of Bangladesh, who, he said, have managed to achieve tangible results in different spheres.

The Ambassador also expressed the confidence that the present democratic growth of Bangladesh would continue in the interest of its people.



New Soviet Ambassador to Bangladesh Yuri K. Alekseev presenting letter of credentials to Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in Dhaka on Sunday.

Background

Another report says: Alekseev was born in Moscow in 1931. He graduated from the Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies and later from the Higher Diplomatic School (Diplomatic Academy) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

Alekseev joined the diplomatic service in 1954. He worked in the USSR Embassy in Iran and in Afghanistan. Prior to 1983 he was a Minister-Counsellor at the USSR Embassy in Afghanistan.

Since 1985 until his appointment to Bangladesh, Alekseev was the Head of the Department of West Asia of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Yuri K. Alekseev holds the diplomatic rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. He has received a number of state awards. He is married.

DU reopens July 6

Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof M Maniruzzaman Miah Sunday confirmed that the Varsity will reopen on July 6, reports UNB.

Talking to the university unit student leaders of different organisations at his residence Sunday morning, he categorically said that closure would not be further extended.

The University will reopen on July 6 instead of July 1 and the residential halls on July 5 instead June 29.

Offices, TSC and Madhu's Canteen, however, will open from tomorrow.

The VC told the leaders that a meeting of the Educational Environment Council is necessary to discuss ways of maintaining law and order within the campus before its reopening.

He sought cooperation from the student groups for restoring peaceful academic atmosphere.

The leaders assured the VC of their wholehearted cooperation in making this citadel

of higher learning arms and violence free.

University authorities told UNB that check posts will be set up at all the hall gates and different entry points of the university to prevent illegal entry.

Only bonafide identity card holders would be allowed entry within the campus, they added.

Eid reunion

By Staff Correspondent

Engineers of Petrobangla stressed the need for taking appropriate steps to earn image of Petrobangla.

They discussed the situation prevailing in the Petrobangla and its subsidiary companies at a Eid reunion function arranged on Sunday at Engineers Institute in the city, a press release said.

Engineers from Petrobangla and its subsidiary companies attended the function.

Research cells set up at 8 medical college

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) had set up a research cell in each of the eight medical colleges in the country during the last two years.

This was disclosed at the annual general meeting of the council held in Dhaka recently at the Public Health Institute.

Director of BMRC, Dr Harun-un-Rashid, said that four other research cells will be set up this year in four of the post-graduate medical institutions.

The council provides research grants for various medical research projects, he said. 13 projects received financial assistance last year from BMRC and there are 21 such research projects currently underway, he added.

In addition, the council, with financial help from the World Health Organisation, is

undertaking a programme to disburse over Taka 17 lakh to post-graduate students and researchers to conduct medical research.

He said, the council has also received approval of the Ministry of Health and the Planning Commission to implement a project aimed at improving the standard of medical education and training in the country. BMRC has been allocated Taka 6.58 crore in grants for this project by the World Bank, he added.

Presided over by Prof Syed Mudassir Ali, the meeting was also attended by national Prof Dr Nurul Islam, Prof Ghulam Rasul, Director of the Institute of Post-Graduate Medicine and Research, Prof TA Chowdhury, Prof Mattur Rahman, Director of the Dhaka University Food Science and Nutrition Institute, Prof SM Keramat Ali.

New body of 'Shapla' formed

By Staff Correspondent

The Annual General Meeting of 'Shapla' a social and cultural organisation, on Friday formed a 17-member executive committee with Ranajit Majumder as President, Mohammad Ali Montu as General Secretary and Jamirul Islam as Finance Secretary.

The members of the organisation are: Mosharraf Hossain Amirul Bahar Chowdhury, Nesar Ahmed Prince, Anisuzzaman, Bhabani Shankar Roy, Hasim Mahmood, Kasem Humayun, Kasem Jamal and Fazul Haq.

Film star Adil arrested

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, June 30: Film star Adil was arrested on Sunday when he came to the Narayanganj District Court to pray for anticipatory bail.

A case was earlier filed against him by the parents of his wife Farhad Sultana China following her suicide on May 23.

Adil was granted a three-day anticipatory bail from Narayanganj Sadar Upazila Court on June 3. But he did not turn up in the court after the bail ended. Meanwhile, a warrant of arrest was issued against him by the court.

The judge of Narayanganj District Court on Sunday rejected his prayer for bail and he was arrested.



Monday

- 5:00 Opening announcement, Recitation from Al-Quran
- 5:15 Recitation from Geeta
- 5:20 News in Bengali
- 5:30 Cartoon: The Yearling
- 5:55 Sports programme
- 6:30 Documentary film and address of Canadian envoy on the occasion of National Day of Canada.
- 7:15 Prime Minister's address
- 8:00 News in Bengali
- 8:30 SAARC Exchange Programme
- 9:00 Bulbul
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:25 Parliament Round-up
- 10:40 The Man From U N C L E
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:45 Closing down

What's on Today

Mango festival at Sheraton

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel will open a ten-day mango festival at its Bithika Restaurant today (Monday). Sheraton picked up this popular seasonal fruit referred to as 'the king of summer fruit' in keeping with the tempo of the mango season.

Under the guidance of chef Stewart wee, a wide variety of mango specialities in the form of appetizers, main courses and desserts will be served both during lunch and dinner time.

Some of the highlights of the mango promotion are 'mango and shrimp salad with choice of dressing, 'flight of the phoenix', 'oven roasted duck with mango sauce', 'sauteed prawns in cream of mango bisque', 'mango flan', 'mango mousse' and 'mango ice cream or sherbet'.

Rotary Club

On the occasion of the commencement of new Rotary year, District Governor, Rotary International - 3280, Bangladesh, Rtn Prof Jalal U Ahmed will meet the distinguished members of the press and media today (Monday) at 11 am at Sonargaon Hotel. Prof Jalal will brief the mediemen on the new Rotary year.

'After the Storm'

'After the Storm'-a photo exhibition under the style begins at the Alliance Francaise at 26 Mirpur Road in the city today (Monday) at 6.30 pm. The 10-day exhibition of the photographs by seven photographers will show the pictorial scene of the strength and endurance of the coastal people and the efforts by the relief workers to ease the plight.

The photographers have donated their prints to raise funds for the families of the relief workers who lost their lives.

CPB meeting

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) starts today (Monday) its three-day secretariat meeting at the party's central office at Purana Paltan.

It will discuss the four-day central committee meeting of the party beginning from July 4, about prevailing political situation and the ensuing congress of the party.

Weather

Rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

The prevailing weather over the country would change a little during the next three days, met office has forecast on Sunday.

But rainfall activities would increase after this period, it added. Rain or thunder shower is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong and Rajshahi division and at a few places over Dhaka Khulna division.

Day temperature is likely to remain unchanged over the country. Rainfalls were recorded on Sunday in Kutubdia-7 mm, Cox's Bazar 26 mm, Sylhet-6 mm, Comilla-1 mm, Faridpur-6 mm, Barisal-5 mm, Satkhira-22 mm, and Jessore-1 mm.

Temperature and humidity recorded at major cities and towns on Sunday were.

Cities/Towns	Max	Min	9 am	6 am
Dhaka	32.6	25.4	78	76
Chittagong	30.8	25.8	83	76
Rajshahi	34.0	26.5	88	73
Khulna	33.0	27.0	81	85
Dinajpur	33.0	26.8	86	65
Sylhet	32.0	25.0	76	97
Srimangal	32.0	25.8	74	78
Jessore	34.7	26.4	84	88
Mymensingh		24.2	92	

The highest temperature of the country on Sunday was at Jessore and the lowest was at Mymensingh. The sun sets in Dhaka today (Monday) at 6:50 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:15 am.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and a solution box. Clues include: 1 Father, 2 Hat, 3 Wine cups, 4 Bard, 5 Employ, 6 Back of neck, 7 Reach, 8 Short, 9 Stationing weapon, 10 Claude, 11 Awaits, 12 Settlement, 13 L.A. players, 14 Pencil, 15 Be in debt, 16 By Me, 17 Couple, 18 Pronoun, 19 Arabian garment, 20 Mica and Man, 21 Limb, 22 The Man, 23 Wager, 24 Frog, 25 Depart, 26 Group of three, 27 Commands, 28 Rank, 29 Hold on, 30 property, 31 Garden tool, 32 S-shaped, 33 molding, 34 Smaller amount, 35 Still, 36 Musical instrument, 37 Mast, 38 Great letter, 39 Rarest, 40 Babylonian herd, 41 Cask, 42 the, 43 Indian weights, 44 Doctrines, 45 Footless, 46 Terence, 47 Projecting teeth, 48 Night bird, 49 Tiny, 50 White House nickname, 51 Sorrow, 52 Frequently, 53 poetic, 54 Classics, 55 Helms, 56 measure, 57 Aleutian island, 58 A Too, 59 Stone parts, 60 Enthusiasm, 61 Lounge about, 62 Great Lake, 63 Toward, 64 shelter, 65 Timid, 66 Encountered, 67 Faroe islands, 68 whirlwind.

Reliance Insurance advertisement. Text: 'Reliance is not just a Name. You can come and see for yourself.' Includes a large stylized 'R' logo and contact information for Reliance Insurance Limited, BSB Building, 8 Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. Phone: PABX-240105-6, 235080. Telex: 671186 RIL BJ.